



SAINT MARY'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Newsletter

Our Mission Statement:

Saint Mary's is a Christ-centred family, caring, sharing and working together, seeking to change through growth.

September 2017

Dear Friends,

What is it to be a Christian?

This is a question that both Rev. Ken Gordon and Jason have been tackling over the last couple of weeks. Ken Gordon in fact introduced the idea that being nice and tolerant, two things we might have thought of as Christian virtues, needed to be shaken up and re-evaluated, and perhaps rejected.

But even niceness and tolerance, in their best ways, are not exclusively Christian virtues. There are plenty of nice, tolerant, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, humanists and atheists. How can anyone tell when they meet us that we are Christians, when rock stars adopt crosses and crucifixes as fashion accessories? As the old Scripture Union poster said: 'If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be any evidence against you?'

There's an argument here for turning to the Sermon on the Mount for an answer to this: the Beatitudes are a code for life for the follower of Jesus. That's not to say that they form an easy code, or a straightforward one. Mark Scandrette, a member of the 9 Beats Collective who base their musical ministry on the Beatitudes, examines each of them:

'What's the human ache in it? What is the critique of empire here? What's the reality that Jesus is calling us into? In each one, Jesus is naming an

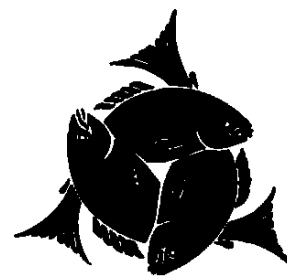
illusion that brings pain and misery into our lives, and invites us back to what's real and true.'

He is part of a movement looking again at the Beatitudes and finding ways that they apply to us today. St. Francis of Assisi found them essential to his life, and others, too, even outside Christianity have valued them. Mahatma Gandhi said:

'The message of Jesus, as I understand it, is contained in the Sermon on the Mount, unadulterated, and taken as a whole. If, then, I had to face only the Sermon on the Mount and my own interpretation of it, I should not hesitate to say, "Oh, yes, I am a Christian."'

So maybe it is time to look again at those Jesus said were blessed – the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, and those who, when men revile them and persecute them and say all manner of evil against them falsely, for His sake. Nine beatitudes, each with its own challenge: what can they tell us about what it is to be a Christian?

The Editor



Normal weekly services:

Sunday: Holy Eucharist at 8a.m. and 10.15a.m.

Wednesday:
Holy Eucharist at 10a.m.

Lunchtime Fellowship

Lunchtime Fellowship continues on the last Tuesday of the month, at 12:30pm in the Choir Vestry.

On 29th. August, it will be Rest and Renewal.
On 26th. September, it will be Harvest Festival.

Mary McKinnell

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Vestry Report

The vestry met on 19th July.

The members of the buildings have met with the architect to discuss the various works required on the building and try to arrange a programme of work to deal with the most urgent first. Some contractors have been in to inspect some of the problem areas and reports are awaited from them. No quotes have been received yet so the cost is unknown although it is expected to be a significant amount and we will look at possible grants to cover some of the cost. Further information will be given when it is available. We are also being advised by the architect regarding the most appropriate heating system for the church and again further information will be given when available.

There was a slight surplus of income versus expenditure in May and June but this was mainly due to a refund from Gift Aid.

Intuitive Music Aberdeen has requested the use of the church for a concert to be held in December and further information has been requested from them.

There was a meeting of the city centre churches which Bishop Mark chaired held during July to look at a way forward for them. The aim is for them to work more closely together with an aim for a common outreach to the city. As a result of this review no churches will be closed and no congregations will be closed down. There will be a meeting of the congregation during August to give information and obtain comments and views from the members of Saint Mary's thereafter a report will be sent to the Dean before the end of

August. Graham Thomson will lead this consultation exercise with the congregation. There will be another meeting chaired by the Primus on 14th September when it is hoped that members of Saint Mary's will attend to hear what other congregations are saying and to give their views.

The Dean has said that during the intercessions we read out the names of members of the congregation who are sick and unable to attend church. If anyone knows of anyone who requires our prayers, please inform Mary Allardyce as convenor of the pastoral care group of the names so that they can be included in the prayers.

Mary Allardyce
Vestry Secretary

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City Churches Meeting

On p.3 below you'll see Graham's excellent report on the last meeting of the City Churches to discuss future co-operation. The next meeting is again in the Citadel on 14th. September at 6.30p.m. – all are welcome to attend.

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Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group, which does such valuable work in visiting the sick and those unable to attend church amongst our congregation, is seeking more volunteers. If you think you would be able to help, please contact Mary Allardyce.

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Gallowgate Fair

Thanks to all who baked for or helped at the Gallowgate Fair this year! It was a quieter event than some recent years, but good-humoured and somewhat windblown. The final tally has not yet come in, but rests around £300.

Gallowgate Festival Quiz Night



Following a promising second place in the previous St. Margaret's Quiz Night, the St. Mary's team, augmented by David Jones from St. Margaret's, came first in the Gallowgate Festival Quiz Night! Perhaps it is our turn to host the next one?

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100 Club Subs

100 Club subscriptions for the year are now due – see Mary Allardyce to renew old numbers or select new ones!

Report on the Meeting of City Centre Churches

On the 29th June the Rt Rvd Mark Strange chaired a meeting at the Citadel on Castlegate. The issue in question was the future of the churches in the city centre (The Cathedral, St John, St James', St Margaret, and St Mary's). Newly elected as Primus; he stressed that he was there as a neutral party to facilitate a discussion between the congregations rather than to impose the will of his office upon us.

There has been concern in some quarters that the increasing sparsity of clergy and the relative proximity of the churches might lead to some congregations being merged. The Primus was quite clear that he would prefer to avoid this option if at all possible. He voiced the opinion that when churches close their doors it always leads to the loss of members and diminishes our Church as a whole. The Dean gave a financial overview of the churches in question to demonstrate that each

is currently financially sustainable and that none would need to close on this account.

Nevertheless, congregations are dropping in all churches across the city and the Church of Scotland have recently had to close one of their buildings. The Dean and Primus were keen that the city centre churches should work together so as to avoid following suit. We have a large footprint and prominent buildings in the city centre. The five churches each has a different approach to worship and it is felt that through collaboration we can remain strong and perhaps even attract some new members, be it from those leaving other churches or from newcomers to the city.

The meeting then discussed what attracted us to our particular place of worship and the different strengths presented by each. It was broadly agreed that we have the potential to be attractive to a variety of worshippers and that this is something on which we should build. Equally, there are other areas in which we can collaborate more fully. It was suggested that it would be a better use of resources and present a better image of our Church if we were able to offer worship on every day of the week. Thus it would make sense if, rather than have two churches hold weekday services at the same time, they were to offer them on two different days.

Lastly, the meeting discussed the potential of our promoting the different types of worship. Not only can we use it to attract new people to visit us but we can also show our new Bishop (when appointed) that we have strength in our diversity and thereby encourage the continued identities of the individual congregations. In order to do this, those present were encouraged to return to their congregations and have conversations about what attracted our members to their church specifically. A list of these could then be submitted to the Dean ahead of another meeting in September to discuss our next steps.

Graham Thompson
People's Warden

This was a meeting that left people not anxious but excited and keen to make a proper Episcopal community in Aberdeen – if anyone has ideas, let Graham know quickly so that they can be considered at the next meeting!



Christian Hutcheon, pictured here at her 100th. Birthday party, would like to say thank you to all at St. Mary's for their kind wishes and lovely flowers. After spending all her life as a member of our congregation, she is of course still keen to hear news of what is happening and takes a lively interest in all our events!

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Our Favourite Hymns

*On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is nigh:
Awake and hearken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of Kings.*

This popular hymn, which we often sing in Advent or at the celebration of Jesus' baptism, is also heard during the rest of the church year in churches all across the U.K.

The words in their original language were written by the ominously-named Charles Coffin, a French

theologian who lived from 1676 to 1749, spending the latter years of his career as rector of the University of Paris. He collected his Latin poems and hymns and published them in 1736, and they were republished after his death. John Chandler, an English clergyman (he inherited his father's parish of Whitley, Surrey, in 1837), was a very successful translator of hymns and published translations of some of Coffin's 1736 work amongst 100 hymns he collected in 1837. He also translated *Christ is our cornerstone, Now that daylight fills the skies*, and many others, and published some original hymns, too.

There are several popular tunes for the hymn: 'Puer nobis nascitur' and 'Alstone' are two, but the most commonly sung is 'Winchester New', which contrary to its title is both older than the words, and German. It was composed by Bartholomäus Crasselius, son of Johannes Crasselt, sheepmaster at Wernsdorf near Glauchau, Saxony. He became a rather troubled Lutheran pastor in Dusseldorf, wrote a number of hymns, some of which have been translated into English, and died there in 1724.

Our popular British hymn, then, written in Latin by a Frenchman and sung to a tune composed by a German, is very cosmopolitan!





Sarah-Emily Mutch (daughter of Penny) and Daniel Sprague after their lovely wedding at St. Mary's on 19th. August. We were lucky enough to have Lucy's beautiful flowers still adorning the church next day.



Dates for your Diary

September
Friday 22nd. Cheese and Wine Tasting

October
Friday 21st. Quiz Night

November
Sunday 26th. Bake and Buy after church

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Garden of Daily Living

Plant three rows of peas:

Peace of mind

Peace of heart

Peace of soul

Plant four rows of squash:

Squash gossip

Squash indifference

Squash grumbling

Squash selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce:

Let us be faithful

Let us be kind

Let us be patient

Let us really love one another

No garden is without turnips:

Turn up for meetings

Turn up for service

Turn up to help one another

To conclude our garden we must have thyme:

Time for each other

Time for family

Time for friends

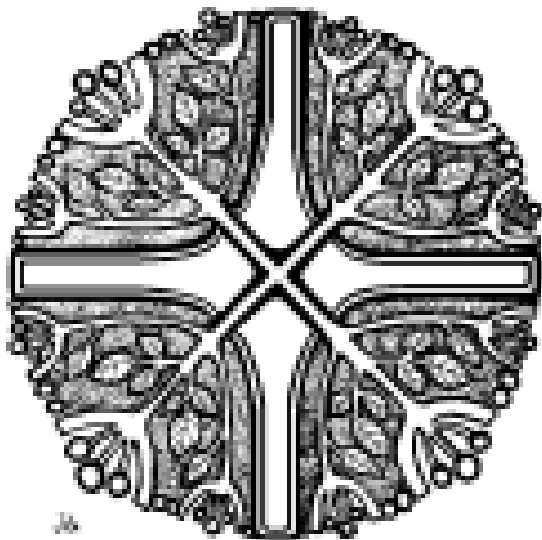
Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

(from the newsletter of St. Magnus' Cathedral,
Kirkwall, thanks to Ann Swallow)

Saints' Days in September:

- 2nd. The Martyrs of New Guinea
3rd. St. Gregory the Great
8th. The Birth of Mary
13th. St. Cyprian of Carthage
14th. Holy Cross Day
16th. St. Ninian of Whithorn
17th. St. Hildegard of Bingen
20th. John Coleridge Patteson
21st. St. Matthew
23rd. St. Adamnan of Iona
24th. St. Finnbar of Caithness
27th. St. Vincent de Paul
29th. St. Michael and All Angels
30th. St. Jerome



Your Magazine

You can order your St. Mary's News to be sent to you each month by e-mail, or ask for a Large Print version, or ask for any back copies of editions you may have missed. Just contact the Editor!

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Rector: Vacancy

Assistant Priest: Rev. Jason Hobbs

Rector's Warden: David Rose

People's Warden: Graham Thompson

Vestry Secretary: Mary Allardyce

Vestry Treasurer: Lydia Ross (864072)

Lay Representative: Nicola Mills

Sacristan: Mary Allardyce

Organist: Alex Kither

Sunday School: To be arranged

Lunchtime Fellowship: Mary McKinnell
itofficer@aberdeen.anglican.org

Protection of Vulnerable Groups Co-ordinator:
Elizabeth Smyth

Flower Convener: Lucy Fleming

Church Office (561383)
office@stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Website: www.stmaryscardenplace.org.uk

Follow us on Facebook at
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All copy for the October magazine must be with the Editor by 25th. September, 2017. Hard copy to Nicola Mills, or telephone 01224 488700, or e-mail to palaeography@aol.com. Thank you!

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Carden Place, is a charity (Scottish Charity No. SCO 14062).